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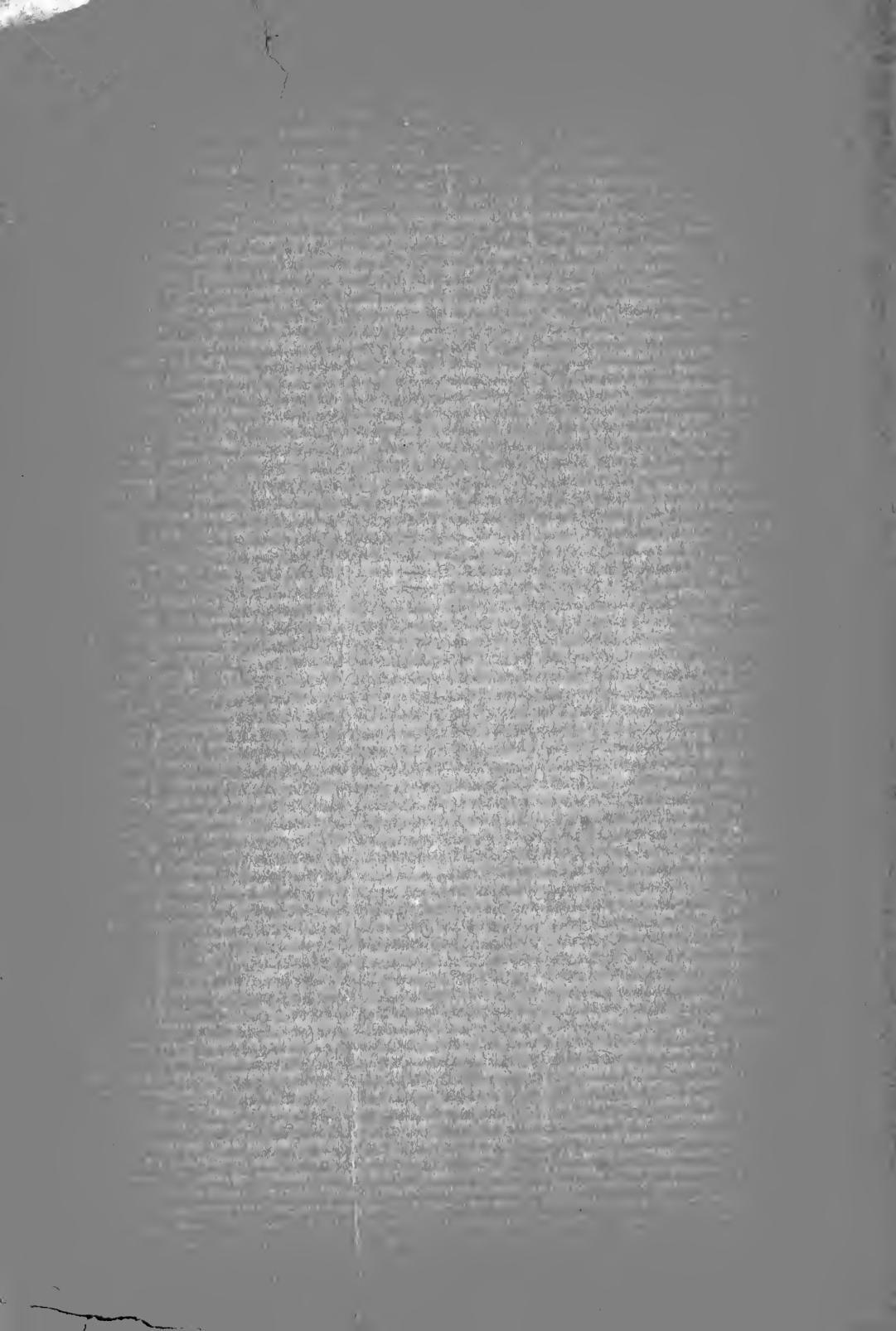
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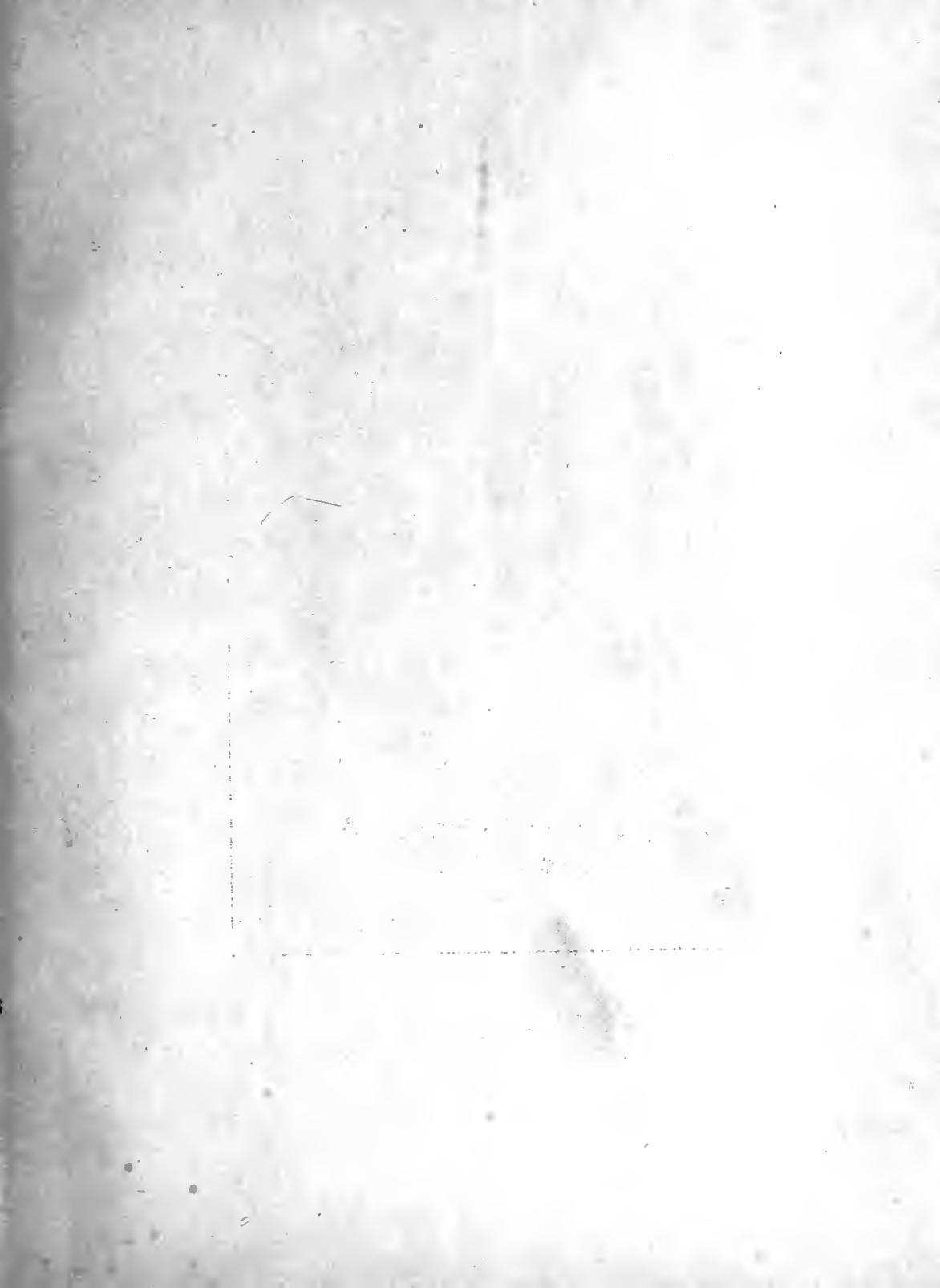
In Memoriam

William Holcomb Webster











Kindly yours

W.H. Webster

In Memoriam.

WILLIAM HOLCOMB WEBSTER,

OF CONNECTICUT,

LATE CHIEF EXAMINER

OF THE

UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
SAVAGE & REDFIELD, PRINTERS.
1896.

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On March 23, 1896, Major WILLIAM HOLCOMB WEBSTER died suddenly at his home in Washington, D. C., about 5 p. m., just after returning from his office, where he had discharged his usual duties during the day in apparent health. The announcement of his death came to his associates in office with startling suddenness. On March 25, the day preceding his burial, by authority of the Civil Service Commissioners, a memorial service was held in the room of the Central Board of Examiners, which was attended by the Commissioners, by all the employés of the Commission, and by representatives of many of the Departments who were intimately acquainted and had been associated with Major WEBSTER. At this service impromptu addresses were made by many of the persons present, stenographic notes of which were taken and are here published. In addition to these addresses, there are published herein the minutes of the Commission upon the death of Major WEBSTER, the resolutions adopted by the employés of the Commission, and letters from former officers, who gave expression of their regret and sympathy.

Major WEBSTER was born in Burlington, Conn., January 24, 1839, and was a direct descendant of Governor Webster, the first Colonial Governor of Connecticut. He graduated from Trinity College in 1861, and at once enlisted as second lieutenant of Company I of the Fifth Connecticut Volunteers. In 1863, having been discharged for disabilities, he returned to Connecticut and became provost-marshal. After the war he served in Louisiana dur-

ing the reconstruction period. In 1869 he was appointed chief of the old War and Navy division of the Pension Bureau, where he remained until, in 1886, President Cleveland appointed him Chief Examiner of the Civil Service Commission to succeed Mr. Lyman. Prior to that appointment Major WEBSTER had served for several years on the Departmental Board of Examiners, and his activity and interest in the work had done much to help inaugurate successfully the civil-service system in the Federal Departments. While engaged in the Pension Office he took a course in the Columbian Law School, graduating in 1871. He belonged to the Grand Army of the Republic, the Military Legion of Honor, the Sons of the American Revolution, and the Masonic order. He was deeply interested in cementing the friendship between the two opposing elements of the war, and was ever active in doing what was possible in promoting friendly relations.

MINUTES
OF THE
UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.

March twenty-fifth (Wednesday), 1896.

Commissioners PROCTER, RICE, and HARLOW present.

In Memoriam.

On Monday afternoon, March twenty-third, Major WILLIAM H. WEBSTER, the Chief Examiner of this Commission, died suddenly.

At the beginning of the Commission's work, in 1883, Major WEBSTER was Chairman of the Central Board of Examiners, on detail from the Pension Office, where he was a chief of division. Much of the credit of the organization of that board and its work belongs to his early efforts in the cause. On August 28, 1886, upon the advancement of Mr. Lyman, who was then Chief Examiner, to be Commissioner, Major WEBSTER was appointed Chief Examiner by President Cleveland.

The United States Civil Service Commission desires to record in its minutes an expression of its appreciation

of the high character, unusual abilities, and manifold services of Major WEBSTER, who for over nine years was Chief Examiner of the Commission. His death is a personal bereavement to each Commissioner, yet it is as a public official that they especially wish to speak of him here. From the enactment of the civil-service law he was interested in the work of the Commission, and every year increased his devotion and usefulness to the betterment of the public service. He was painstaking, faithful, and just in all his duties. His conclusions were formed only after thorough and conscientious consideration of the questions before him, but once formed, were sturdily maintained, yet always with courtesy and kindness.

The Commission feels it due to the memory of Major WEBSTER to make record of this official tribute, and it is ordered that this minute and the action of the Commission and its employés at the memorial meeting be communicated to the secretaries of the various boards throughout the service.

Remarks of Commissioner John R. Procter.

MY FRIENDS: I have just arrived from the train, and I only heard of this sad event last night. Coming into the building and finding the flag at half mast, and passing through the vacant room, I can not address you. I can only say that I come here to meet with you and join with you in paying tribute to our late fellow-worker—to the noble, brainy, strong man who has left us. I think that this loss comes to me more than to any of you as a great personal loss. I have learned in my service on the Commission to lean upon this strong man—to rely upon his wise counsel and his disinterested advice. I have known how true he was, how deeply he had the interests of the public service, and your interests, and the interests of the great work we have in charge, so at heart, that I can not fittingly express my feelings over my own great personal loss and the great loss to you and to the public service. My regret is deepened when I think that we are soon to reap the rewards of an extension of the classified service and in the improvement and simplification of the rules, to which Major WEBSTER gave so many careful, thoughtful days of his life in the past few months. It is with peculiar regret that I feel that he can not be with us and aid us in putting these rules into execution. We will miss his wise counsel, his friendly aid, and his kindly words in the coming days. Feeling as I do, I can not attempt to address you, but will call upon my fellow-Commissioners.

Remarks of Commissioner William G. Rice.

A week ago, on a sunny afternoon, Major WEBSTER came into my office to say good-bye, as I was to go away early the next morning. In his most kindly way he wished me a successful journey. I told him something of what I hoped to say while in Boston, and also that I should improve that opportunity to publicly express appreciation of the faithful work done by him and by you, and from my intended remarks I read to him this:

I should not be just did I not express my appreciation of the admirable work done by that body of trained and expert officials and employés who make up the force of the Commission. Their experience, intelligence, and skill have contributed and will contribute in no small degree to the complete and successful accomplishment of the Commission's policy.

He thanked me with a few words, but chiefly expressed his gratification by a look, which I hold as a most pleasant memory. He asked to have a copy of what I was to say, and we parted. That is my fortunate, latest remembrance of the generous-hearted man who has gone upon the long journey.

As I recall it, Major WEBSTER, after Mr. Procter, was the first person I knew in the Commission, and it was by his introduction that I met most of you who are gathered here. I came to have a great regard for him personally, and, though sometimes we did not take the same view of affairs, it was always a satisfaction to have his carefully formed opinion, to which we all gave great weight. We sorrow at the separation from him whom we have known

so well, and we deeply sympathize with those to whom the bereavement comes still closer. "He is not dead; he is just away," is a verse of James Whitcomb Riley's which comes with special meaning as we think of the hearty man, alert to so many varied interests, who a few hours ago was our associate. There is, too, something peculiarly comforting and peaceful in the thought that his last earthly act was to take the attitude in which he prayed, and to know that as he knelt his spirit returned to the God who gave it.

He was a faithful churchman, a brave soldier, strong in all his beliefs, firm in his friendships, painstaking in his work, seeking always to be just in his judgment. He was trusted, and was worthy of trust in every relation of life. Lord Nelson's motto, which the Commission has made somewhat its own, may well accompany the emblem which we send as our tribute of remembrance: *Palmam qui meruit ferat.*

Remarks of Commissioner John B. Harlow.

We are gathered here today to honor the memory of our late associate, WILLIAM H. WEBSTER. Personally, the ties that bound me to him were manifold. He was my brother, my comrade, my companion, and a fellow-worker and adviser in the cause of civil-service efficiency. This friend of ours who has gone before us was a manly, brainy, conservative man and a safe adviser. This Commission has lost by his death its right arm. Peace to his ashes.

Remarks of Hon. Charles Lyman,

Ex-Civil Service Commissioner.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND FRIENDS: This sad event which we contemplate today came to me suddenly, and to you with equal suddenness, so sudden indeed that the mind is almost benumbed. I have not been able properly to think. Fortunately I have been compelled in the last twenty-four hours to be busy, and busy somewhat in connection with preparations for the last services which will be held over Major WEBSTER's remains. What I shall say, therefore, the brief word that I shall speak, will be the word that comes to me while I stand here.

In the contemplation of any event everyone has his own special point of view, and as we contemplate this sad event, each one will look at it more or less with reference to its effect upon himself. We shall emphasize one thing or another thing according to our relations with our friend who has gone. I appreciate fully all that has been said by the Commissioners with reference to Major WEBSTER'S character as a public official, with reference to his importance to this work which he has laid down, with reference to his great value to the Commission, and to the cause which he served here. I say I appreciate this to the very fullest extent, and I regret, I deplore, the loss to the public service, for it is a loss that it will be difficult to supply.

But I approach this event with another feeling. Major WEBSTER to me was not only a public official, not only a man devoting himself to the public service, and seeking the public weal, always and everywhere, but for many years he has been my personal friend. I have been associated with him in many ways—in the public service and out of the public service—in organizations to which we both belonged, and to some extent in our social lives; and the loss of this personal friend is an event that comes very close to me as a sorrowful one. And yet there is something that we need to rejoice in. I think that I rejoice in the fact that my friend, as I might have expected, was faithful to the end. In every duty, in every responsibility, in every relation of his life, so far as I know—and I know pretty well what his life was—he was faithful, honest, true, everywhere and to the last, and he went out as he had expected to go, suddenly. You all know, I suppose, or most of you, that he had looked forward to this kind of departure.

A word about the life of this man. He was one of those of whom there are a great many, especially in New England, not poor in the sense that he was deprived of the ordinary blessings that make life comfortable in his boyhood, but poor in the sense that he was early compelled to make his own way in the world, to rely upon his own energies and exertions to advance his fortunes. He earned by one means or another money enough to take his course in college. When the war broke out in 1861 he was in his senior year in Triuity College, and, like a great many other patriotic young men, he left the college and went into the army and served throughout the war, served faithfully and served honorably, and at the close of the war still remained in the service and was assigned to duties which were trying, which were difficult, and which taxed the capacity of those persons who

were assigned to them to the utmost—duties which required absolute integrity, ability of the highest order, and courage which knew no flinching. Major WEBSTER fulfilled expectations in this service. Retiring from the army he entered the civil service of the Pension Office and rose through the various grades to the position of chief of one of the most important divisions in that office, and held that position until he became Chief Examiner of the Civil Service Commission. You all know what his life has been here and what his work has been here. I need not enlarge upon it. You can not know it better than I know it. When a vacancy occurred in this office in the position of Chief Examiner, it became a very serious matter who should fill it. There were applicants whose claims were pressed with the utmost persistency. Major WEBSTER was not an applicant, but the Commission, in looking over the ground, in canvassing the field, felt that it was wise and best for the public service to pass by all of those who had applied for the place and to ask the President to appoint him. He did appoint him. And I stand here today, after nine, almost ten, years from that time, to say, as I look back upon it, that no mistake was made. You know that no mistake was made. Major WEBSTER, in every emergency, in every position in which he has been placed during these ten years of service as Chief Examiner, has been true to the oath which he took. He has performed his duties intelligently, faithfully, courageously, and impartially. Some of you may have felt at times that you were misunderstood, or that you misunderstood him, but I am sure you all give him credit for acting according to his best judgment and with courage and determination to do his duty, and to require duty of you and only that. He has never sought to hurt anyone's feelings.

Now, what more need I say? The public service has lost a most faithful, conservative, and competent official. You have all lost a personal friend, for I know, probably better than you know, how Major WEBSTER carried every one of you, every one with whom he had official relations, in his thoughts, remembered them in their work, sought to make the way pleasant and agreeable for them, and to do every one fair and even justice. This was characteristic of the man. My friend—your friend—has gone. It is better for him, I have no doubt, and we may not rebel against the decrees of an all-wise Providence. God has blessed him and I pray that he may bless us and temper to us this affliction.

Remarks of Mr. John T. Doyle.

It has been my good fortune to have been associated with Major WEBSTER and Mr. Lyman since the earliest history of the Commission, and I wish to express my sympathetic concurrence with what Mr. Lyman has so fittingly said respecting the character and services of Major WEBSTER.

It is the first time that death has invaded the ranks of the Commission. It has come suddenly, taking the Chief Examiner in the prime of his powers and usefulness, when his services were of most value. But in the economy of Nature it is no matter if death comes suddenly. Cicero says:

Nature has lent us life as we lend a sum of money; only no certain day is fixed for payment. What reason, then, to complain if she demands it at pleasure, since it was on this condition that we received it.

Historians tell us that the decline of the Roman Empire was slow because of the efficiency of the subordinate officers of the government, both civil and military. It was Rome itself that fell, and not the provinces, which were preserved by the fidelity of the public servants. While the purple was put up at auction and the great men at Rome betrayed each other, the minor officers stuck to their posts and did their duty. Major WEBSTER'S career illustrates the value to the State of the faithful subordinate office-holder, no less important to-day than in the days of Rome. He gave his best years to the two great national movements of his generation—

that of defence of the Union, with the obliteration of slavery, and the reform of the civil service. That man indeed has lived to noble purpose who has devoted the best that is in him to the loftiest moral ideas of his time. Major WEBSTER was one of those heroes who formed the blood and sinew by which our common country was preserved. He crowned his patriotic service in the war by aiding in peace to make our civil service purer. Times of peace have their victories as well as times of war. The growth and prosperity of a state depends upon the character of its servants. Where good, they, as did the Roman soldiers, arrest the causes of decay and advance the frontiers of empire. Where the servants are bad, the best laws are powerless to preserve the Republic. Major WEBSTER is an example of the good servant, the kind of man who should compose not alone the military but also the civil service. The state is chiefly known through its officers, and the services of such faithful employés as Major WEBSTER have contributed materially to advance the Nation to its present eminence.

Major WEBSTER began his service with the Commission on the Central Board of Examiners, and when Mr. Lyman became Commissioner, Major WEBSTER, as Chairman of the Central Board, was at once, and naturally, thought of for Chief Examiner. The early work of the Commission in new and untried fields was full of difficulties. It was almost a providential benefaction that the direction of the examinations should have been put in the hands of a man of experience, industry, courage, self-reliance, honesty, and balance. A man of timid or vacillating mind would have retarded, if not wrecked, the infant work. His associates did not always agree with him, but they were glad to recognize his impartiality, his conscientious adherence to his convictions, and his punctual and thorough performance of every duty.

He argued openly and fairly, and his opinions were free from personal prejudice. His one ambition, his sole regard, was for the protection and elevation of the public service. He fought tenaciously, with no sign of yielding, for what he deemed the best interests of the service. He knew well the evils to be remedied and the dangers to be avoided, and he countenanced no resort to shifts or subterfuges. He came into conflict with public men of his own party, and with his friends; but there was never any suspicion of self-seeking or the advance of his personal interests. He was—

Constant as the northern star,
That unassailable holds in his rank
Unshaken of motion.

Last Monday evening I was at a lecture by Dr. Rogers, of this city, on London. He showed us many beautiful views of Westminster Abbey, and among them, the monuments commemorating the great characters of English history. I am not sure, but I presume that a study of the designs of those monuments would show the progress of thought in the last two centuries in the idea of death.

One of the monuments was that of Mrs. Nightingale, who died in the arms of her husband. The sculptor represents a cave, on the top of which the images of the man and wife are seated. Death comes forth from the cave and touches the wife with his spear. The husband shrinks in horror and puts out his hand to avert the stroke. This is the medieval idea of death. The lapse of a century has given us a more satisfactory belief. We no longer look upon death in that awful light. Death comes not only at the moment when the spark of life dies in the body, but throughout life there is change and decay; tissues are corrupted, and in all the Seven Ages of

Man the process continues. Analogy and reason tell us that Death is a natural form of Being. One writer says:

Turn which way we will, we find no "killing principle" in nature, only a vitalizing and sustaining one. Throughout its whole extent, nature is life; in all its forms and modifications, one vast and infinite life, subject, no doubt, to the extinction of particular phenomena, but never to absolute and total death, even in its weakest and least things. Anything that looks like death is a token and certificate of life being about to start anew. Death and life are but the struggle of life with itself to attain a higher form.

Young expresses this thought:

While man is growing,
Life is in decrease;
And cradles rock us
Nearer to the tomb.
Our birth is nothing
But our death begun.

So, also, Bishop Hall:

Death borders upon our birth,
And our cradle stands in the grave.

Modern science finds many believers for the idea that man passes from sphere to sphere in being, according to his fitness and development, and that birth is the incarnation of the dead.

The ancients, it is said, understood this better than ourselves. Homer describes the notion of an unembodied soul. They had only the light of nature, but to them the bones and the flesh were incumbrances of mortality to be consumed on the funeral pile. Euripides wrote:

Who knows but that this life is really death,
And whether death is not what we call life?

Emerson in his poem, "Brahma," makes the Supreme (Brahma) say:

If the red slayer thinks he slays,
Or if the slain think he is slain,
They know not well the subtle ways
I keep, and pass, and turn again.

Great changes in the ideas of death are fast taking possession of the modern human mind, following upon the medieval beliefs of the consequences of sin. Longfellow expresses the modern view:

There is no death!
What seems so is transition;
This life of mortal breath
Is but a suburb of the life elysian
Whose portal we call death.

Another poet says:

There is no death! the stars go down
To rise upon some fairer shore;
And bright in Heaven's jeweled crown
They shine forevermore.

It is an unfounded and ascetic idea which regards the other side of the grave as a cheerless abode, if an existence at all. Rather think of Love and Death as "the two sweet lords, friends to the human race, whom fate gave being together."

In the words of Tennyson—

We rise on stepping-stones of our dead selves to higher things.

Why and what should we fear? Shakespeare says—

Of all the wonders that I have yet heard,
It seems to me most strange that men should fear;
Seeing that death, a necessary end,
Will come when it will come.

The soul is naturally qualified for a state of future happiness. We are endowed with powers and capacity for pleasure not to be met in this life. Our friend has gone before us. Let us wait with serenity, making our faculties fit for the future happiness and rewards sure to attend on virtue when death destroys the false images about us and we are restored as in sleep.

Remarks of Mr. E. D. Bailey.

I have been intimately associated with Major WEBSTER for nearly nine years, coming in daily contact with him, knowing well his methods and manner, and I think no one thing about him will linger with me longer than the recollection of his genial manner and kind-heartedness. He was almost uniformly kind and polite in his manner. In the nine years of my association with him I do not remember that he ever gave me a cross or disagreeable word. Even when there were differences of opinion he did not resort to harsh or arbitrary methods to carry his point, but gave due consideration to all that could be said against his own ideas. He never made his subordinates feel the inferiority of their position, but associated with them almost as a friend and companion. He aimed to be perfectly fair and just. I think I speak only the sentiments of every employé of the Commission when I say that we have not only lost a valuable official, but a valued friend.

I would respectfully offer the following resolution for the adoption of the employés of the Commission:

WHEREAS, Major WILLIAM H. WEBSTER, the Chief Examiner of the United States Civil Service Commission, has been suddenly removed from us by death; therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the employés of the Commission, who have been associated with Major WEBSTER in office duties, hereby express our deep sense of personal loss. We recognized in him a public official of absolute integrity, of a kind and generous nature, and one who was just and fair in his administration, especially in dealing with his subordinates. We have had abundant reason to admire his upright Christian character, and we sincerely mourn his death. To his sorrowing wife and daughter we offer assurances of our deepest sympathy in their great bereavement.

[*Unanimously adopted by a rising vote.*]

Remarks of Mr. F. M. Kiggins.

I did not expect to be called upon to say anything on this sad occasion, but being called upon I feel that I would neglect my duty if I failed to pay some slight tribute to the memory of our late Chief Examiner. I have not been associated with him so long as some others at the Commission, but I have been associated with him long enough and closely enough to admire his character and to recognize his ability. When I think of him I can not help recalling to mind the well-known saying that "an honest man 's the noblest work of God." Major WEBSTER was one whom I regarded as an honest man in the broadest sense. He was not only correct in the details of life which constitute honesty from a worldly standpoint, but he was just and upright in the highest sense. I do not believe that any man understood better than he the reciprocal relations which should exist between man and man. As a public official his career at this office was one of untiring industry. He did not seem to know the limit to a day's work. He believed that he could not give too much time and thought to the work of this Commission, the cause which he loved so well, and in which he enlisted his best energies for so many years. I do not believe that there is today another official in the public service who is more conscientious and painstaking than was our late Chief Examiner. He was thorough. I know from long experience with him that nothing received his approval or his official sanction until he was satisfied that it should be approved. During the last two or three years, as the work of this Commission continued to increase, the Chief Examiner was considerably worried

that he could not give it all that personal supervision which he could in the earlier days of the Commission, but notwithstanding the many vexatious questions which necessarily beset him as Chief Examiner, he had wonderful self-control, and complications and difficulties were mastered by him, one by one, without the slightest loss of that serenity of temper which was his under all circumstances and conditions. Mr. Bailey has referred to the manner in which he treated subordinates. I beg to make a further reference to that subject. Our late Chief Examiner did not look upon them as subordinates. He regarded them as associates, and I believe that every person in the Chief Examiner's division feels that he was on friendly terms with him in this office. While he was a strict disciplinarian and insisted that each man should perform his duty, he did not believe that harsh methods resulted in the best work. I can say personally that the time I have given to the work of the Commission after office hours was done simply to co-operate with the Chief Examiner, not because he insisted that the work should be done. I know that this same feeling animates others connected with the Commission, especially with the Chief Examiner's division. Mr. Doyle has stated that Major WEBSTER'S first experience was as Chairman of the Central Board, and I wish to express on behalf of the Central Board the deep sense of personal loss which I am sure every member feels on this sad occasion. The Chief Examiner occupied a position in this office which required absolute integrity as well as the highest order of ability. As to his integrity, it was never questioned, and as to his ability, it has been seen and felt in the work of this Commission for many years. In him the Commission has lost an honest and capable official, and his friends and associates now feel, and will continue to feel as time passes on, that the unrelenting hand of Death has taken from us a kind, generous, and whole-souled man.

Remarks of Mr. George B. Hoyt.

He has fought a good fight and has entered into the enjoyment of his reward. A great solace to my grief is the reflection that there is implied in that reward the rest which he could not obtain in this vale of life, loaded as he was with harassing details of official work as well as weighty responsibilities.

Peace to the ashes of a loyal friend, a zealous churchman, a conscientious official, a true husband, a devoted father, a brave soldier, and an upright citizen.

Remarks of Mr. Matthew F. Halloran.

MR. PRESIDENT: The unerring hand of death has laid its withering grasp upon an officer of this Commission. It has set its seal upon our beloved Chief Examiner. Major WEBSTER is dead. His spirit has passed across the silent river. No more in life shall we look upon his kindly face or hear his cheerful voice. Like a flash of lightning out of a sunny sky came the news of his death, startling all with its awful suddenness, as it occurred only a few minutes after leaving his office, apparently in the best of health and spirits.

Death—the destroyer, from thy potent spell,
Nor sex, nor age, nor strength, nor weakness 'scapes.
Time's hoary locks—the ringlets of gay youth—
The hero's laurel, and the poet's wreath—
Love, honor, health, and beauty, are thy spoil:—
The mitred, and the sceptred yield to thee,—
In deferential horror, all—all submit,
Save Virtue, who in radiant smiles beholds
Thy dread approach, and, arm'd in Heaven's proof,
Contemns thee and thy retinue of ills,
Alike triumphant o'er the tomb and thee.
Thou canst not rob thy victim—thou mayst slay him,
Tear him from those dear arms that cling around him,
And teach survivors to deplore thy power:—
But, for this temp'ral life—this life of sorrow—
This life of death—thou giv'st him life eternal,
Unfading joy, and everlasting love!

Taken prisoner by an enemy that never releases its victim, our late associate surrendered in obedience to the

dictates of an all-wise Providence and, with day declining in the Golden West, his soul passed into the presence of his Maker.

Having listened to the tender sentiments expressed in the choicest of rhetorical gems, I feel that I can add nothing to the wealth of eulogy paid to our departed associate, but my long acquaintance with and warm friendship for him urge me to pay a brief tribute to his memory. I became acquainted with Major WEBSTER during the summer of 1883, at the office of the Commission, then located in the Annex Building to the Department of Agriculture. He was detailed from the Pension Office to serve on the Departmental Board of Examiners, then being organized. He was elected Chairman of the Board and continued in that office until August 28, 1886, when he was appointed Chief Examiner by President Cleveland. His genial social qualities and affectionate nature at once made an impression upon my youthful mind and commanded my esteem and admiration. Crossing the threshold of youth into manhood's estate, that esteem and admiration increased with each succeeding year. His cheerful mien, friendly and sympathetic greeting, and amiable disposition were so distinctly characteristic that to know was to admire him and feel that he was indeed a true and staunch friend. He was always of one disposition, and that the happiest and most cheerful. All these qualities so happily blended, so gracefully combined the traits which distinguish just and honorable men as to be worthy of Antony's tribute to Brutus:

His life was gentle, and the elements
So mixed in him, that nature might stand up
And say to all the world, "This was a man."

He possessed an almost inexhaustible fund of entertaining anecdote that rendered his companionship most

agreeable, and his short stories abounded in quaint humor and instructive moral. His appreciation of the work done under him made the doing of it a pleasure and gave the utmost encouragement to those engaged upon it. This happy characteristic, mingling with his trained experience, his masterful mind, and stability of purpose, eminently qualified him to discharge the arduous duties of his important office. His zeal and indefatigable industry were instrumental in bringing the work incidental to examinations to a high standard of excellence. He has watched over the birth of a new machinery of the Government and kept abreast of its gigantic growth. He has piloted the reform movement to a safe and hospitable harbor; he has seen it buffet the waves of stormy opposition and appease the elements that warred against it. His work is ended. These halls are forever silenced to his footsteps. But yesterday in the full possession of his manly strength, today he is no more. His chair is vacant and his desk draped with the National flag whose proud colors he loved so dearly and defended so gallantly. Sweet violets inwreathing the stately palm scent the room with their fragrant odor, lending to its appearance an air of serenity and simplicity typical of the man. But tenderer than the fragrant violets that soothe with their sweet perfume, more lasting than the verdant and golden palms that gently waft their spreading leaves to the cooling zephyrs, his memory will endure, clinging to our hearts as the ivy to the majestic oak, strengthening our resolutions, animating our purposes, making us better citizens, truer, nobler, and more faithful Christians.

Remarks of Mr. Theodore L. DeLand.

I did not expect to speak today on Major WEBSTER'S death. No more did I expect two days ago that he would pass so suddenly from us. The day that he left the office for the last time I was in his room with him up to about half-past four. He was then happy and buoyant, and gave every evidence that he was in full possession of his health and strength. A few little matters were discussed. He said, "I will take them up with you in the morning." That morning is an indefinite time for me now. In one short half-hour after that conversation his noble spirit had passed away. I feel keenly Major WEBSTER'S death. I was related to him by distant ties of kinship. Two hundred years ago we had a common ancestor. It was one of the pleasures of Major WEBSTER'S life, one of his amusements, one of his pastimes, to search among the people of this country for those who were directly or indirectly related to him. It was a fascinating study for him. He knew more of our family history than we knew ourselves. The first time that I met Major WEBSTER, away back when I was a young man, he came to my home and told me who he was and how he was related to me on my mother's side. From that hour a warm friendship commenced to grow. It never stopped growing, and so long as I live his character to me will be the perfect character of an earnest Christian gentleman. Later in life I became associated with him in the early days upon the Central Board. I believe I am the only member of

the Central Board that began the work of the Commission in the early days. It was then I learned to know officially the character of Major WEBSTER. He was an example of untiring industry. Long after the hour when ordinarily the official would close his desk and retire from the office, the Major would remain, diligently at work. I will take this occasion to say in public that he was a slave to duty. It has been said that when the Almighty gives life to the child he stores up in that child just so much physical and mental energy. I fear that Major WEBSTER drew too rapidly upon his allotted energy. I am satisfied that he died of overwork. He worked too hard and too much. I do not say that as a warning, because an industrious man will put in all the work he can anyway. I say it as a caution. We can see officials overworking everywhere. I have often been called upon to participate in exercises on an occasion like this upon the departure of overworked public servants. I can recall the death of two Cabinet Ministers in the Department where I served who died almost at their posts. Nothing that we could say to warn them would have any effect; but as I said before, the industrious men will go on and work until life's time-piece runs down. As a private in the ranks of the members of the Central Board I now speak, and I think I voice the sentiments of all my colleagues when I say that we feel that we have lost a great leader. During the last two or three months of his official life he was engaged in co-operating with the Commission in the revision, modification, and reduction of the civil-service rules to the simplest possible form. I know that the Commissioners are competent to go on with their work, but they are like the generals upon the battlefield. The commanding general and the brigadier generals are all fitted and competent to carry on their work, but when the great engineer who has the details

of the battle in his hands is stricken down, it is then that the critical moment arrives. That is our condition. The engineer, the man that made the working drawings of the new rules, has passed away. The operating of the rules, putting them into practical operation, is the great work that he has left. I know and I feel that a competent man will take his place, but I know and I feel that we never can have a more patriotic or a more diligent public servant. His bereaved wife has lost a precious husband; this Commission has lost a useful officer; and in my grief I can say that I have lost a constant friend.

Remarks of Mr. L. W. Covell.

Like my brother, DeLand, I did not expect to be called upon at this time, and I can simply say that I feel very deeply Major WEBSTER's departure. He was, from the time that first I knew him, in 1887, up to the time of his death, a very warm, personal friend to me, and I was associated with him, not only upon the work of the Commission, but also in Masonic orders where he was a very faithful member, and I mourn his loss in both these organizations. I think that my feelings upon this occasion have been expressed better by Mr. Bailey than I can possibly express them, but I certainly think that of all the men with whom I have ever been associated Major WEBSTER was absolutely the most just and fair man that I ever had to deal with, and I can say Amen to every word that Mr. Bailey said. I think he pictured Major WEBSTER in a very faithful and true light and I agree with every word that he said concerning him.

Remarks of Mr. George A. Bacon.

I respond, somewhat reluctantly, because I dislike to have my name taken in vain on this occasion, which is more especially designed as an appropriate opportunity for an expression of feeling over our great loss from our honored officials and those who have been longest connected with our late brother, rather than from one of the latest contingents and humblest employés of the Department. But I should do violence to my own deepest feelings if I did not enter into the spirit of this meeting and willingly pay my personal tribute to our departed comrade, in the shape of a bunch of forget-me-nots among the other flowers contributed on this occasion.

My duties seldom brought me in contact with Major WEBSTER, and hence gave me but little opportunity to measure him from my own point of view. It requires, however, but a little experience with the sun's rays to appreciate the nature of their warmth, and no one needed to have many interviews with him before becoming conscious of his wonderfully comprehensive knowledge of the duties of his position, his entire familiarity with every detail of every branch of the service, his devotion to the cause of civil service, and his constant desire to have the best represent it at all times and on all occasions. And we can do him no greater honor than to imitate him in this respect.

I am no moralist, in the technical sense of the word, and so do not propose to draw any moral lessons from the

death of Major WEBSTER, but for myself, I know that it is well with him. And now that he has gone, I want to say that the manner of his going was almost an ideal one. At least, when my time comes to join that innumerable caravan of which the poet speaks, or to sail out on that ocean which rolls all around the world, I pray that the attending Fates, under the operations of the All Father, may so order things that I may, like Major WEBSTER, be at home, have my reason, and my exit be a sudden one.

I have listened with deepest interest to the appreciative words, in testimony of the worth of our comrade, which have been so feelingly and eloquently paid to his memory, and I regret that my own stammering words can not supplement them more fittingly. But take the will for the deed, and in the spirit in which it is offered. I simply desire to cast my little handful of immortelles at the feet of Major WEBSTER in loving remembrance of his memory.

Remarks of Mr. G. R. Wales.

I, too, had no right to anticipate that I would be asked to add a word at this sad time, and it would be very difficult for me to find words to express how deeply I feel both the official and personal loss of Major WEBSTER. All that I can do, therefore, is simply to add my tribute, my unqualified endorsement, to all that has been so touchingly said of his death. My association with Major WEBSTER has not been so long nor so close as that of many others. My acquaintance dates from some five years ago, when my work began on this Commission. In that time I learned to love Major WEBSTER as a superior officer, and looked upon him as a personal friend. It was a delight always to work for him. Since first learning of his death I have tried to realize, in some measure at least, the loss that has come upon us. I have gone over in my mind the words, "Major WEBSTER is dead," and while my intellect tells me so, I am completely incapable of sensing it, and do not realize it even now. Major WEBSTER is dead, and yet he lives, and will continue to live, in loving memory in the hearts of us all.

Remarks of Mr. Charles L. Snyder.

I should fail to do my part if, when called upon, I did not try to express a brief tribute to our departed friend. I say departed, for he is not dead, but gone up higher. He has gone to his reward, and while we know that we shall never greet him again in the physical form, yet I fully believe that he can come in spirit and see us, and be with us, and commune with us. Hence, while I keenly miss his physical presence, I do not feel that he is lost to us in every sense. I can not think that he is entirely isolated from all that interested and concerned him here.

I most heartily concur in all that has been so fittingly and touchingly said. Our arisen friend found a large space in the hearts of all who came in close association with him. He found a niche in our lives and so filled it that sweet and vivid remembrance of him will linger with us, and as long as we have memory it will never be lost to us.

I, too, have been associated or brought in contact with him we mourn for a shorter period of time than many others. It has been only about six years, or less, that I have known our Chief Examiner, but during that time I have known him but to love him. He always had a word of commendation for work well done, and when words of criticism were spoken they were given with a spirit of fairness and justice, and always with the reasons for his opinions, reasons that in most cases could not be controverted or set aside.

While his loss to us is deep indeed, and while we mourn his absence from us, should we not try to feel that his entering the other world is a gain to him that should compensate our feelings of sorrow and grief?

Remarks of Mr. William S. Washburn.

No words of mine can really add anything to what has already been said, but I feel, like others, that it is my duty to express my own personal feeling to some extent. It has been said many a time here, "Major WEBSTER is a friend to me." I voice that sentiment. He has indeed been a friend to me, but I want to add that impartiality was a characteristic of his friendship. He was more than a friend. He was a wise counsellor. He was a guide. He was an instructor. He had a reverence for law, human and divine, far surpassing that of most men. That was one of the strong traits of his character, and with this in view he always did what he had to do justly, honestly, and courageously. That he always acted intelligently no one can doubt. No one doubted his ability. No words of mine can do him justice. More eloquent than rhetorical expression and more enduring than Parian marble is the work he has done, the life he has lived, and his influence must remain with us. By our associations we become somewhat like those with whom we are associated. A man's life is lived again in some degree in others, because he can not help but influence others, be it for good or be it for ill, so that his work speaks today and speaks more eloquently than any words we can say. "Though dead he yet lives."

Remarks of Mr. George W. Leadley.

After listening to your remarks, I am so filled with emotion and bereavement that I can say nothing. One of my friends has expressed my own prominent thought: That Major WEBSTER fought a good fight and that he will have his just reward.

Remarks of Mr. George W. Hill,

Of the Department of Agriculture.

It is never easy for some of us to express our thoughts before an audience, and it is especially difficult on an occasion which has, as in the present case, come to us with such a shock, but I am grateful to you, nevertheless, for giving to those representing other Departments of the Government an opportunity to say a few words on this occasion. I know that in whatever I may say I speak for a great many who, like myself, have had, perhaps, more to do with Major WEBSTER than with any other one individual of this Commission. Our conditions were such that we were constantly finding ourselves obliged to refer to him, and not infrequently obliged to discuss with him, perhaps to differ with him, as to the means by which our ends could be accomplished. But this I can say most truthfully, that I do not know any man, in our Department at least, however much he may at times have differed with Major WEBSTER, who, as he got to know him better, did not respect him more, did not attach more importance to his judgment, and did not, I may say from the first, accord to him an honesty of intention which always disarms anything like bitterness from discussion. He was a man who impressed us all from our first acquaintance as a man we could thoroughly trust, even if he believed us to be thoroughly wrong. Curiously enough, a few days before Major WEBSTER'S death a gentleman connected with one of the Departments told me that he dif-

ferred more with Major WEBSTER and respected him more, and trusted him more, than almost any other man in the departmental service with whom he had anything to do. In a general way I think we ought all, as citizens as well as officials of the Government, to appreciate the double lesson which Major WEBSTER's life has afforded in a very striking degree. The first, a lesson which, perhaps, need hardly be taught to men of our race—that of patriotism in war; but in maturer years and later life he has taught us another lesson which in all countries and in all times needs to be taught, and in no country and at no time I think more than now, the lesson of patriotism in peace, the painstaking, conscientious, faithful devotion to duty in all its aspects, in matters not only of great moment but also in its apparently insignificant detail. I fail to remember the name of a somewhat obscure writer, but from whose pages I gleaned a beautiful thought which I think is especially suggestive in its application to Major WEBSTER. It was something like this: That to most of us the lives, the great heroic deeds of great men, were like the stars, impressive in their brilliancy, and for us to look up to in admiration, but away beyond our reach; but that the faithful, honest work of those who devoted themselves to the everyday duties of life, and who performed them with a kind word for all that came into contact with them, with a general thought and friendly sympathy for all those who were associated with him, are to us like the lovely flowers that diffuse their sweet perfume and beautiful colors along our path within reach of every one of us. There may well be to those who share the faith which I fancy most of us here do, some consoling thought in the near approach so soon after Major WEBSTER's death of that great festival with which Christendom celebrates that event which is to every Christian the strongest assurance that death is but the entering upon

a higher life, and of which a writer said a great many years ago that it had taken from the grave its victory and snatched from death its sting.

I thank you, Mr. Procter, for giving one from another Department, and I may venture to say a strong personal friend of Major WEBSTER, an opportunity to speak. I will simply say in conclusion that the great sorrow of his bereaved family and your own grief at his loss will find a responsive chord in the hearts of hundreds of persons in every one of the great Departments of the Government, and it is a personal pleasure to me to thus pay my feeble tribute to a good citizen, a faithful officer, and a Christian man.

Remarks of Mr. F. E. Camp,

Of the Pension Office.

A close and very intimate acquaintance with Major WEBSTER for a period of nearly sixteen years qualifies me in a measure to join with those who today weep over his bier and pay a tribute to the worth of a man whose inflexible fidelity and integrity have rarely been equaled, and may never be excelled in public life. It was my rare good fortune to meet Major WEBSTER shortly after my entrance into the public service, in my young manhood, and through what means I never knew, he became my mentor; a guide, an example, the gathering up to me of all that is worthy and good in man, or that there can be. It was through him that I was requested to co-operate with the Commission in its earliest days, and we were most closely associated in work of a character important to the Pension Office, in which we were both employed; and it was during this intimate and constant association that I learned more of the excellence of this great and good man than I had known before, and in a school where the faults and incapacities of a man, if any, were sure to be brought out. Major WEBSTER'S life has always seemed to me to be the epitome of faith and duty. During all the years that we worked side by side he was always the same. There was in him the most absolute devotion to duty, and in his work the most painstaking thoroughness that I ever saw in official life. Major WEBSTER became my guide and familiar companion in organizations

outside of the public service, and there he developed to me most beautifully another phase of his life—the genial and brotherly side. I had known something of the fatherly aspect before, but now he became more like a brother, and I mourn him today as I would mourn my own brother. He has gone to be with his God. He has fought his fight and it was a good fight, and we may be sure that he will obtain his reward.

Remarks of Dr. Francis J. Woodman,

Of the Pension Office.

It was my privilege to know Major WEBSTER for a number of years in the Pension Office and in the capacity of an examiner working for this Commission, and I consider myself honored to be able to recognize Major WEBSTER as one of my personal friends. My association with him was everything that was agreeable, and I found in him a staunch and worthy friend—one who was ever ready to advise and who stood by when criticisms came. I do not wish to prolong this meeting, but wish to add my testimony to what has already been said.

Remarks of Mr. John T. Callahan,

Of the Post Office Department.

I, for one, who belong to one of the other Departments, was pleasantly associated with Major WEBSTER for a year in this Commission, about two years ago, and I can not let this occasion pass without saying one word in commemoration of his kindly and gentlemanly bearing. When I was associated with this Commission for the brief period of a year and first entered it, the first one whom it was my duty to approach was Major WEBSTER. He took me so cordially and so warmly by the hand that it seemed to me I was in the house of my friends. In him I found a true and noble friend. In the language of the immortal "Stonewall" Jackson, "He has gone to the other side of the river to lie under the shade of the trees." We will know him no more in life. His memory will be forever cherished by those he has left behind, and for one I honored and respected him. This Commission and the public service have lost a valuable servant, his wife and family a noble one at the head of the household, and the city and community have lost a valuable citizen. I fully indorse every word that has been said by the gentlemen who have preceded me—that he was a man who was honored and respected by all, and we will continue to love and cherish his memory.

Remarks of Mr. William J. Rhees,

Of the Smithsonian Institution.

It affords me a melancholy pleasure to attend the memorial services of one so well entitled to honor and remembrance as Major W. H. WEBSTER, and especially to testify to his interest and useful labors in the society of the "Sons of the American Revolution."

As a patriotic citizen, who had borne arms himself in behalf of his country, he was deeply impressed with the objects of this society, which are "to perpetuate the memory of the men who by their services or sacrifices during the War of the American Revolution achieved the independence of the nation; to unite and promote fellowship among their descendants; to inspire them and the community at large with a more profound reverence for the principles of the Government founded by our fore-fathers; to encourage historical research in relation to the American Revolution; to acquire and preserve the records of the individual services of the patriots of the war; to foster true patriotism, and to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom."

He became a member of the society on the 20th of April, 1891, a year after its organization, claiming descent as a great-grandson, on his paternal side, of Charles Webster, and on his maternal side of Diamond Clark, both having served with honor as privates in the Connecticut Militia during the War of the Revolution. He took the deepest interest in the society, faithfully attended all

its meetings, served on its committees of "Advancement" and "Recruiting," and was elected in 1895 on the board of managers and as historian. In the latter capacity he read at the last annual meeting, February 22, 1896, obituary notices of the members who had died during the year. He served during the last six months on the committee to prepare a year book or register of the society, in which genealogies of the members and records of the revolutionary services of their ancestors are to be published. To this work he gave unremitting attention, and his painstaking efforts to secure accuracy and to eliminate errors, either of statement or in typography, were of the highest value and importance. He was well fitted for this task, having been engaged for several years in editing the "Record of Connecticut Men in the War of the Revolution," published by the State, and also having undertaken an extensive genealogical work relating to his own family.

His loss to the society, and especially to the committee of which he was my fellow-member, I feel to be irreparable, and I can fully appreciate and indorse all that has been said by his colleagues and friends as to his remarkable ability and fidelity and to his genial and lovable character.

Remarks of Mr. S. Herbert Giesy,

Trinity, '85.

I did not expect this privilege of expressing my esteem and affection for Major WILLIAM H. WEBSTER, and I can hardly add anything to the tributes so earnestly paid that able and genial man by his colaborgers in the Civil Service Commission. But as a fellow alumnus of Trinity College, as a brother in his college fraternity, Psi Upsilon, and as a member of St. Thomas' Church, where I saw him Sunday after Sunday, I would not be properly regardful of his friends in those several associations if I did not here voice the affection and regard that they felt for him. We of Trinity College are proud of his abilities and of what he has accomplished as Chief Examiner of the Civil Service Commission and as the friend and exponent of the reform which that Commission represents. The graduates of that institution will be extremely proud to hear of the estimate placed upon Major WEBSTER's work by the active workers for the improvement of the civil service and the admiration which they felt for his many personal qualities.

I knew Major WEBSTER as a man. He was one of the first men I had the good fortune to meet in Washington. I called at his office while he was still in the Pension Bureau. His genial nature attracted me—I called again. I can not help but think today, as an example of his genial nature, and of his interest in others, that although I graduated from college in 1885 and he in 1861, he was so approachable even by one so much his junior; so sympathetic with all with whom he came in contact, that I

stand here this afternoon afflicted with a personal loss. I could always come to Major WEBSTER with anything on my mind and find him a wise counselor, and one who, with all his manifold duties, always had time to listen and advise with a friend.

I have noticed, this afternoon, that while his official associates have been speaking, they have been noting and recalling his personal virtues. The man overshadowed the office; his virtues attracted the faithfulness and co-operation of those under him. As has been said today, it was not his discipline or severity that caused the faithful labor of his subordinates, but his personality and magnetism that made them take pleasure in working with him and assisting him in the accomplishment of his plans.

I think the keynote of the affection and regard in which Major WEBSTER was held was that he loved his fellow man. He was interested in his fellow men, and they loved to follow where he led, relying on his abilities and attracted by his magnetism. He said to me once, "I am a joiner." He was. He belonged to the Sons of the American Revolution, he was a Mason, he belonged to the Loyal Legion, and he was a member of a Grand Army post. He was a regular attendant at the meetings of his college fraternity and took an active interest in it and in each of its members here in Washington, although thirty-five years had passed since he had been an active member in college. A Trinity Alumni meeting never occurred without his presence. Major WEBSTER took an active interest in the members of those various organizations. He loved them and loved to be in touch with them and co-operate with them in the accomplishment of what they had at heart. A genial man, a sympathetic, whole-souled friend has gone, but those of us who are left will long remember and admire him.

Remarks of Hon. Marriott Brosius,

Chairman Committee on Reform in the Civil Service, House of Representatives.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN: It may be possible that the official relation which I have sustained with Major WEBSTER during the last few months may justify the feeling that I have in response to the invitation of the President of the Commission to contribute one little flower to the chaplet with which his admiring and affectionate friends have wreathed his memory this afternoon. To me this occasion has been profoundly impressive. As I have listened to your affectionate tributes and looked into your intelligent faces, I have almost doubted which impressed me most, the virtues of the dead or the superb fidelity and character of the living. I rejoice that I availed myself of an hour's rest from the Capitol this afternoon to come to this memorial service, as well that it afforded me an opportunity to look into your faces and to hear your words as to join with you in affectionate tribute to the memory of your friend. If all that you have said is true, Major WEBSTER had a passport to the very highest and the very best of rewards that await our future. If all that you have said of your friend is true, and I do not doubt it, we might say to him, "Death can not touch a spirit such as thine, it can only steal the robe that hides thy wings." Your friend has stepped out of the door into another apartment. We can not sense his condition there, but we can all feel in analogy to

our experience as we rise in this life that when we rise into the life to come our situation and condition are improved. We are here but a day, like a bird that flies in one window and out the other. The life of that bird in this building stands for our life in this world. Whence the bird came or whither it went we know very little. What the bird did here we are concerned to know, and I am quite ready to believe you when you say that Major WEBSTER'S life, while he sojourned in this world, was a great triumph, a brilliant victory, and he has his reward. Your friend has gone, but his memory remains to you. I will not protract this memorial service by dwelling upon the lesson of his life. That open book of a closed career is for our perusal. The only way that we can profit by the lesson is to imitate his example and emulate his virtues. He was called hence, I understand, suddenly. He passed away in the twinkle of an eye. Some one suggested awhile ago that he would like to be called hence suddenly. I know many persons who have expressed a similar desire. Oliver Wendell Holmes once said that when he heard of a man passing away thus suddenly it made his mouth water. He was anxious to be thus called. It matters less to us how we are called than the state of preparation we are in when called. If you could ask the spirit of Major WEBSTER today how you should live, I infer from what has fallen from so many of your lips, that he would say in the language of the sage, "Live in respect to all things earthly and material as if you expected to live a thousand years, and in respect to all things spiritual and that relate to the future, as if you expected to be called the next moment." I understand that that was the characteristic feature of Major WEBSTER'S life. I infer from what you have told us today that he was devoted to duty. I have no doubt that if the spirit of Schiller were to ask the spirit

of your friend today, "What shall I do to gain eternal life," Major WEBSTER would answer in the poet's own glowing words, "Thy duty ever; discharge aright the simple duties with which each day is rife, yea, with thy might." This being one of the animating principles of his life, I have no doubt he has found, as many will find, that after all the path of duty is the way to glory. As he was your affectionate and devoted friend, and as you have referred to his grief-stricken widow and to his affectionate daughter, allow me to say in conclusion, to you and to them, and to all who loved him living and mourn him dead, that you can follow him to the grave with the conciliatory reflection "that green grass will cover him, fair flowers bloom over him, sweet birds sing near him, the place will be hallowed ground; but greener than the grass, fairer than the flowers, sweeter than the birds, more hallowed than the grave itself, will be the memory of your friend enshrined in supreme sacredness in your heart of hearts."

Extracts from Letters.

I am much pained at the great loss our cause has suffered by the death of Major WEBSTER. He was conscientious, earnest, capable, and devoted in an unusual degree, and civil-service reform is much indebted to him. His powers for continuous labor were very unusual, and I fear he has shortened his life by over-exertions of them. I hope there is some good picture of him which can be placed in the office of the Commission.

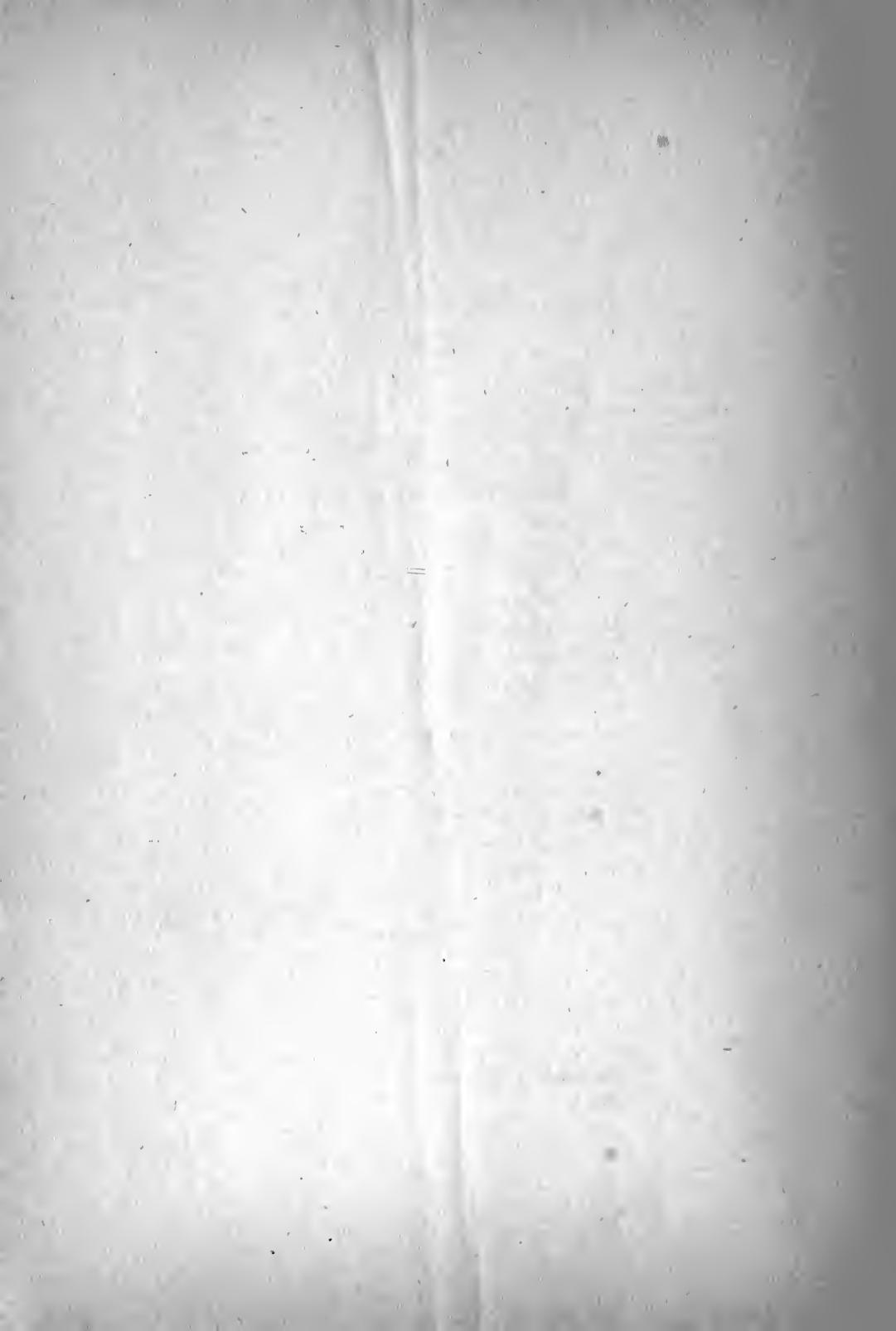
DORMAN B. EATON.

I respected and liked Major WEBSTER very much, and my heart owes its sympathy to Mrs. Webster in her greatest affliction.

ALFRED P. EDGERTON.

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